

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image input apparatus comprising:
reading means for reading a manuscript image;
and

communication means for performing a transfer
of image data, which is read by the reading means, to
another apparatus and a transfer of control data to the
other apparatus, wherein

the communication means has a first mode in
which a periodic data transfer can be assured, and a
second mode in which the period data transfer cannot be
assured, and transfers the image data and the control
data in the first and second modes, respectively.

2. An image input apparatus comprising:
reading means for reading a manuscript image;
and

communication means for performing a transfer
of image data read by the reading means to another
apparatus, wherein

the communication means has a mode in which a
periodic data transfer can be assured, and transfers
the image data in the mode and transfers data other
than the image data in a period in which there is no
image data to be transferred.

3. An image input apparatus comprising:
reading means for reading a manuscript image;
and

communication means for transferring image

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data read by the reading means to another apparatus,
wherein

the communication means has a mode in which a
periodic data transfer can be assured, and

when the image data is transferred in the
mode, the communication means transfers data other than
the image data until the transfer of the image data is
started.

4. An image input apparatus comprising:

supply means for successively feeding a
plurality of manuscript sheets;

reading means for sequentially reading the
plurality of manuscript sheets fed by the supply means;
and

communication means for transferring image
data of each of the plurality of manuscript sheets,
which is read by the reading means, to another
apparatus, wherein

the communication means has a transfer mode
in which a periodic data transfer can be assured, and
transfers status data in the transfer mode after
transferring one-sheet image data in the transfer mode,
the status data indicating a state of the image input
apparatus.

5. An image input apparatus comprising:

supply means for successively feeding a
plurality of manuscript sheets;

reading means for sequentially reading the

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plurality of manuscript sheets fed by the supply means;
and

communication means for transferring image
data of each of the plurality of manuscript sheets,
which is read by the reading means, to another
apparatus, wherein

the communication means has a transfer mode
in which a periodic data transfer can be assured,
transfers the image data of the plurality of manuscript
sheets in the transfer mode, and transfers status data
in the transfer mode in intervals between the image
data of the plurality of manuscript sheets to be
transferred, the status data indicating a state of the
image input apparatus.

6. An image input apparatus according to claim
4, wherein the status data indicates whether or not
there is any manuscript sheet in the supply means.

7. An image input apparatus according to claim
5, wherein the status data indicates whether or not
there is any manuscript sheet in the supply means.

8. An image input apparatus comprising:
reading means for reading a manuscript image;
and

communication means for transferring image
data, which is read by the reading means, to another
apparatus, wherein

the communication means has a transfer mode
in which a periodic data transfer can be assured,

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transfers the image data in the transfer mode, and transfers the same image data as the transferred image data in a free period of the transfer mode.

9. An image input apparatus comprising:
reading means for reading a manuscript sheet;
and

communication means for transferring image data, which is read by the reading means, to another apparatus, wherein

the communication means has a transfer mode in which a periodic data transfer can be assured, transfers the image data in the transfer mode, and successively transfers the same image data as the transferred image data in the transfer mode.

10. An image input apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the image data to be transferred is divided into predetermined units.

11. An image input apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image data to be transferred is divided into predetermined units.

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